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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 Nov 1953

SUBJECT Tenth Company Border Guards/Organization/Equipment/ Training/Personnel/Counter Intelligence /Lenin Works in Blovice near Pilsen

NO. OF PAGES 12

PLACE ACQUIRE

NO. OF ENCLS. 3 (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE ACQUIR

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF

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The 10th Company of the Border Guards in Nevy Zdar near As; Border obstacles in the Guard Sector of this Company and the Carrying Out of Guard Duty on the Border.

1. The 10th Border Guard Company is located in a two-story building of the one-time poorhouse in the obec of Nevy Zdar. This company is part of the secon Border Guard Battalion which in turn is part of the 5th Border Guard Brigade with its command post in Cheb. 50X1-HUM

2. the location of three border guard battalions of the 5th brigade. These are: the first battalion in Branice; the 2nd battalion in As; and the 3rd battalion in Cheb. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

3. the Border Guard Companies, of the 2nd battalion in As. These are: the 10th Company in Nevy Zdar, and its neighboring companies, the 11th in Polna, and the 9th, the so-called "Sebska", (derived from the town Selb in Bavaria. 50X1-HUM

The supreme headquarters of all border guard units is in Prague. its commander is Col. Hlavacka.

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(fnu) Nerada, Lieutenant, Counter Intelligence, 2nd Battalion [redacted] 50X1-HUM

Miroslav Svoboda, Lieutenant, former commander 10th Company, now commander Headquarters 2nd Battalion in As [redacted] 50X1-HUM

Karel Pepray, Captain, commander 5th Border Guard Brigade in Cheb [redacted]

(fnu) Muzik, Staff Captain, /equivalent Major/, commander 5th Brigade Resr, [redacted] 50X1-HUM

(fnu) Rysaby, First Lieutenant, Deputy Commander 5th Brigade for Political Staff [redacted] 50X1-HUM

(fnu) Trojacek, First Lieutenant, former commander 2nd Battalion, now Commander Border Guard Brigade Usti nad Labem [redacted] 50X1-HUM

17. Activities of the OVZ /Counter Intelligence/ in Border Guard units, and in the border area in general.

Members of the Counter Intelligence can be divided into two types: one type, the so-called "sixers" /sic/ are in military uniform and travel among the border guard units where they have their informers from whom they learn about the morale of the men, about all important happenings within these various units, and get to know what everyone says during political debates about the Communist regime and its policies. The other type are the so-called "seconders" /sic/ who wear only civilian clothes and do not actually have anything to do with members of the border guard although they have an office in the headquarters of the border guard brigade. These "seconders" /lit./ work alone or send out their agents [redacted] They always report only to the commander who assigns them an escort to the border consisting of a special patrol. On return the agent is met by the "seconder" or reports to the patrol and is immediately, without any personal inspection, escorted to the headquarters of the unit. Should an agent cross the border without being expected, he always does so in daylight making a great noise, to draw the attention of the patrol to himself. The connotation "sixers" and "seconders" depends on whether the particular member of the Counter Intelligence belongs to the section called OBZ-6 or OBZ-2. The "seconders" maintain no contact, ever, with the men of the border guard units, and when they come to a unit they are immediately led to the "secret office" where they do their business with the commander of the unit. The "secret office" houses all secret documents of the unit and maps. [redacted] In this office a large plaster relief map of the entire sector patrolled by the 10th Company. This relief map had entries on it showing the locations of barbed-wire obstacles, observation posts and fixed command posts of individual patrols. [redacted] In this office, in a fireproof steel box, there is, among other things, a detailed map of the border sector of the 10th Company on which are noted important points and objectives [redacted] in an area immediately opposite that guarded by the 10th Company. [redacted] 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

18. Execution of duty on the border: Each day at 1800 hours, the duty roster is hung up in the barracks of the company covering the following 24 hour period. The individual patrols are marked [redacted] on this chart. The tasks of the individual patrols and the time in which they must be executed are pictured by various colors. Each member of the patrol must remember [redacted] the meaning of individual colors: (that is to say what task is represented by each color, and at what time of day each 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

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task must be carried out.) The division of the working day is approximately as follows: 7 hours sleep, 1 hour preparation for duty, 8 hours duty, 2 hours "mass activity"(training), 1 hour meals, 1 hour daily rest, 1 hour personal free time, for writing letters and reading, 3 hours political and specialized training. On the orders of the day the order of work as described above will appear approximately as follows: (the two men on patrol in this example have numbers 22 and 23)

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22, 23	Black	White	Red	Wine	Brown	Blue	Yellow	Green

/Note. color chart in original report appeared with numbers 22 and 26 instead, but probably should read 22 and 23 as above/.

Such a chart was executed in duplicate. A copy was displayed at the entrance to the barracks and the original remained in the office of the commander. The plan of the commander also contains instructions as to where the various patrols should be sent (for instance, barracks guard duty in a fixed command post, mobile patrol in a certain sector, etc.). The patrol is told its destination only immediately prior to departure for duty. The headquarters sends out patrols into two zones. The first zone is guarded by stationary patrol in the prohibited area, and the second zone is guarded by patrols on duty in the border area. In the border area, patrols were only on the public highways, crossroads, railroad stations, etc. Apart from this, the patrols in the border area do not work the terrain.

19. Types of patrols: Stationary - is assigned to a permanent command post on the ground or in an observation tower and performs its duties on highways leading to the border. Mobile - patrols at certain intervals through a predetermined sector or patrols between the individual posts of the stationary guard. This patrol is usually equipped with a police dog. Motorized patrol - This patrol only works six hours a day, three in the morning and three in the afternoon, and crosses the entire area assigned to the company. Controlling patrol - carries out control of the obstacles placed along the border throughout the company area. It also controls the mine field and the ploughed up strip along side the obstacles, and checks on whether anyone in any particular area has illegally crossed the border. Provocative patrol - normally operates in the vicinity of the border in such a fashion that it can be seen and heard from afar, which is supposed to discourage persons from attempting to cross the border illegally.

20. The patrols are usually composed of two men, but, in the period of standby, of three to four men. In addition to weapons each member of the patrol has a pair of American-made handcuffs, in case the patrol apprehends a suspicious person either in the border area or in the prohibited area, and wishes to escort that person to headquarters.

21. Challenging and apprehending of persons in the prohibited area: As soon as the patrol spots any persons in the prohibited area it is required to apprehend them and bring them to headquarters for questioning. It is up to the members of the patrol as to how this should be done. According to instructions which border guards receive, each person can be shot without warning if the danger exists that the person could escape, that is, if the patrol is at a considerable distance from the person. Otherwise, the patrol challenges the so-called "violator" to raise his hands above his head and advancestowards the patrol. One member of the patrol handcuffs the person and searches him. Meanwhile the second member of the patrol provides cover with a cocked automatic pistol for a short distance. If the patrol is about to be relieved (if its time on duty is about to expire), the patrol itself will take the apprehended person to headquarters, otherwise, an escort will be called. An escort may be summoned by flare, salvo of shots or by field telephone, if available.

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22. If a patrol in the second zone apprehends a person whose papers are not completely in order, it is left to the discretion of the patrol to determine whether the person was attempting to escape across the border, and must consequently be handed over for an investigation at headquarters, or whether it was a case of negligence (forgetting of personal papers or permit for entry into the border area). In the latter case, the patrol may let the person go - there are no direct orders to the effect that each apprehended person without the proper papers must be brought to headquarters. Such orders exist in the prohibited area, however. Some patrols in the border area are very ambitious and arrest persons who may have their papers in order, including permits, but who are not able to satisfy the patrol as to the reason for visiting this area. If the person's evidence checks out at headquarters, he is released. Should some small matter not quite agree, the person is arrested and handed over to the police.

23. Signalling with flares: White flares are only used for lighting the terrain at night near the obstacles (this applies only if not used in combination with other colors). A red flare means that a penetration has been detected in the direction of the state border. In practice this means that the patrol has discovered a person or persons travelling in the direction of the state border who have already crossed through the sector of the patrol or even through the obstacles. The green flare indicates a penetration into the country. This is immediately followed by a second signal, a white and a red flare, which summons reinforcements from company headquarters to occupy the suspected sector, in which the violator is supposed to be. The flare like "red rain" [red chandelier] summons an escort from headquarters for an apprehended person.

24. Border obstacles of barbed-wire: In order to make sure that the state border remains inviolate, and to facilitate the duties of the patrols, barbed-wire entanglements were erected along the border. These entanglements penetrate up to various distances inland from the actual border (one hundred m to three hundred m, sometimes even deeper, as determined by the surveillability of the terrain). Where the entanglements cross forests, trees are cleared from five meters to twelve meters in width to form a strip. On both sides of the barbed wire there are approximately 10 meter wide ploughed strips which are harrowed and constantly maintained so that they show indications of any penetration into the entanglements. The barbed wire is mounted on wooden poles about three meters apart. The central row of poles is about two meters high and the two flanking rows are 1.5 meters high. The width of the entire entanglement is 2.5 meters. The central row of supports holds insulators which in turn support electric wire with a 2000 volt charge. These wires are mounted in three rows one above the other. At intervals of 50 meters there is a mine placed on the outside of the obstacle, mounted on a special wooden support. This mine is actually an artillery shell, 10 cm wide and 40 cm high with a special detonator. The detonator is exploded by wire connecting the individual mines if the wire is tripped by a weight heavier than 3 kg. This explodes the mine. This device has a disadvantage in that the mines are frequently exploded by fairly large animals. When the mines explode (they explode in pairs) they usually demolish the obstacle in that particular sector. Each mine has an effective radius of about 100m. In order to allow members of the border guard to cross an obstacle in pursuit of an escaping person, certain places, (stationary posts) are equipped with culverts. These are underground canals, measuring 80cm by 120cm, which lead under the obstacles. The canals are approached through special trenches which can be closed from both sides. [The obstacles are listed on plan number 2, (Enclosure (B) with legend].

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25. In flat country there are observation towers which maintain only day duty. For the most part, these are wooden towers from 10 to 15m high with a little roof; they command a good view of the entire section. The 10th Company area has three [see plan No 1, circled numbers 8,9, and 12 (Enclosure (A) with legend)]. This sector has an additional tower in the ventilation chimney on the roof of the brick kiln which commands an excellent view of the border. [See plan 1, circled no 7 (Enclosure(A))].

26. In the sector of this company there is also located the aircraft spotter service. This service, located in the former Hotel Goethestein, consists of seven members of the aircraft spotter service, a military unit. The commander of this group is a corporal attired in a greenuniform with black epaulettes with a light blue hem. He is probably a member of the antiaircraft artillery. Some members of this garrison have black epaulettes with red hems. To check on this unit a lieutenant used to arrive at regular intervals with red "prusvitky" [sic] on his epaulettes. This patrol has to report every aircraft which crosses its sector.

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27. The prohibited area is marked by white signboards with red lettering which read, "CAUTION! PROHIBITED AREA. ENTRANCE PROHIBITED!" These signboards are so located throughout the terrain that one can be seen from the other. The border area is likewise marked with white sign boards with black lettering which read, "CAUTION BORDER AREA. ENTRANCE BY PERMIT ONLY." These sign boards are displayed mostly on public highways.

28. In April 1952, the commander of the border guard unit, Colonel Hlavacka, accompanied by Gen Smoldas, carried out an inspection of border guard units and the security of the border in the 10th Company area.

29. Lenin works, national enterprise in Blovice near Pilsen

For exact location of this enterprise see plan no 3, circled no 1 [Enclosure (C)]. The enterprise is located to the east of the station in Blovice. It is composed of several three story brick buildings. The factory formerly produced hand drills of the "Lenov" type. In the spring of 1952 this production was discontinued and replaced by production of gun laying devices. The enterprise employs about 600 persons, mostly women, working in three shifts.

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New buildings are constantly being added to the factory and production is on the increase.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch-map of As with Legend
(B): Sketch-map of Border obstacles of barbed wire with Legend
(C): Sketch-map of Pilsen with Legend

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NCLOSURE (A)

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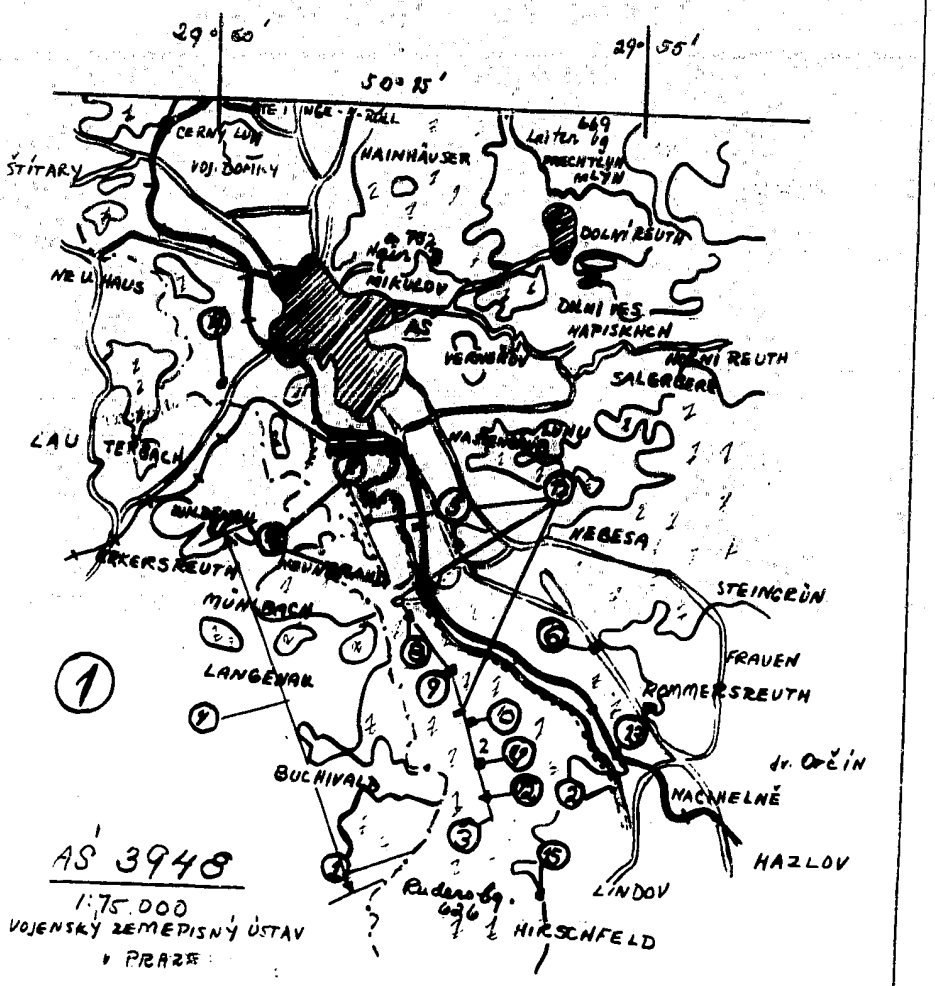

Key to plan No. 1: Border sector 10th Company Second Border Guard Battalion in As.
Map: As 3948

1. State Frontier
2. Border of the prohibited area.
3. Ploughed belt with barbed wire entanglements.
4. Guard area of 10th company; approximately 6km long.
5. Headquarters 10th company - 2 brick buildings
6. Buildings which were being prepared as quarters for the new company. The 10th company sector is to be divided into two parts, each 3km in length.
7. Observation tower - ventilation chimney of brick kiln.
8. "No. 8 observation tower" (this tower stands on the road leading to border demarkation stone No. 8).
9. "No. 8 path" - command post of permanent stationary patrol.
10. Command post of patrol - no name.
11. Command post of patrol "U semljanek". This was formerly the site of air raid shelters of the border guard patrol.
12. Observation tower "Kanci udoli". Wooden observation tower 10 meters high.
13. Aircraft spotting command post.
14. Headquarters 9th company.
15. Headquarters 11th company.
16. Area of mine field.
17. Culverts leading under obstacles.

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ENCLOSURE (B)
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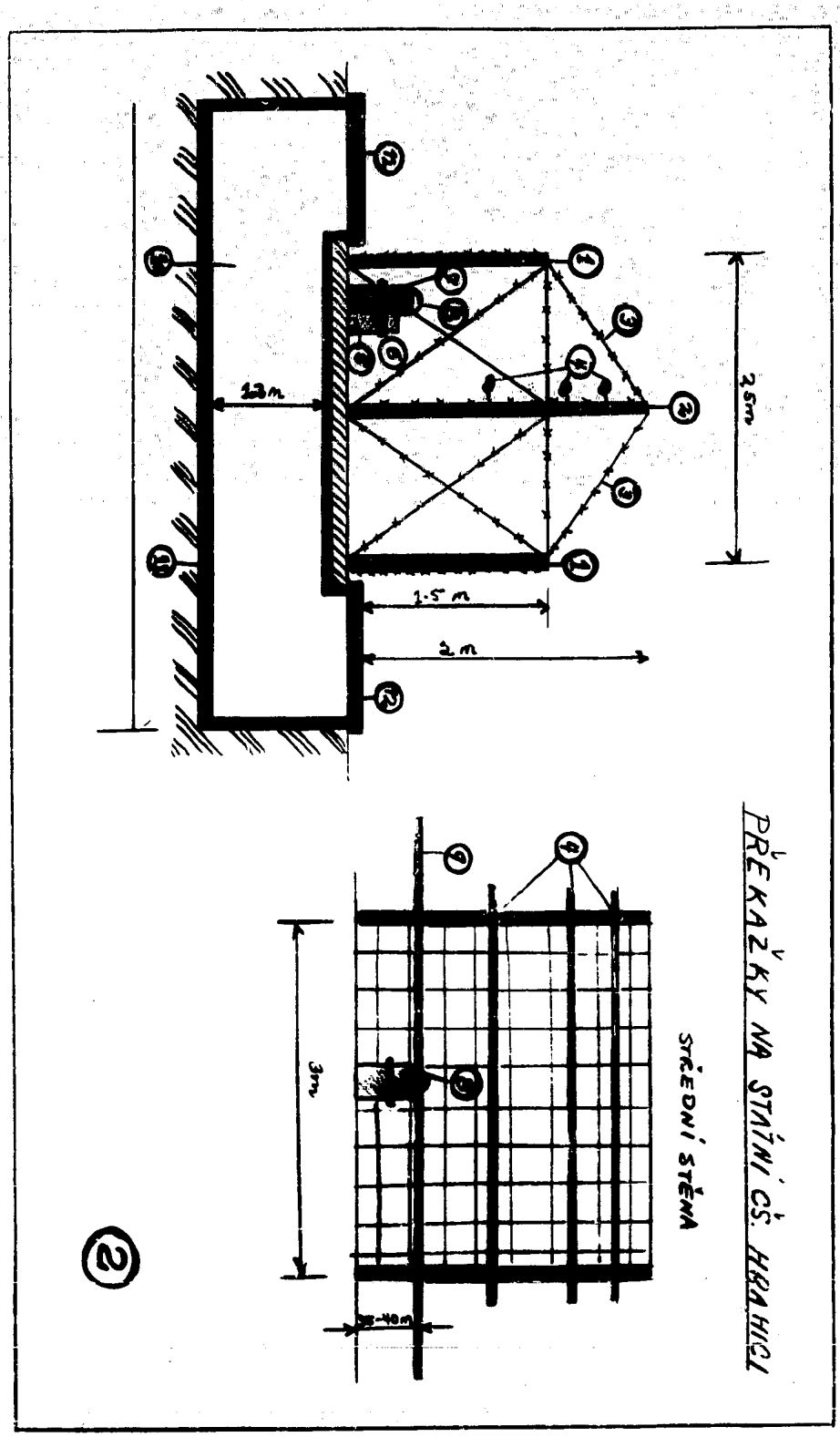
SKETCH MAP OF BORDER OBSTACLES OF BARBED WIRE WITH LEGEND



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Key to plan No. 2: Border obstacles of barbed wire.

1. Flanking supports of obstacles, 10cm diameter 1.5m high.
2. Center row supports 10 cm diameter, 2 m. high.
3. Barbed wire strung between supports.
4. Porcelain insulators with electric wiring.
5. Wooden supports, about 30cm high, holding mine.
6. Sheet metal clamp for mounting mine on support.
7. Body of mine.
8. Special detonator.
9. Trip wire leading to the detonators of mines.
10. Underpass under obstacles.
11. Shoring of the underpass by wooden planks.
12. Wooden lid over the entrance to underpass.

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ENCLOSURE (C)

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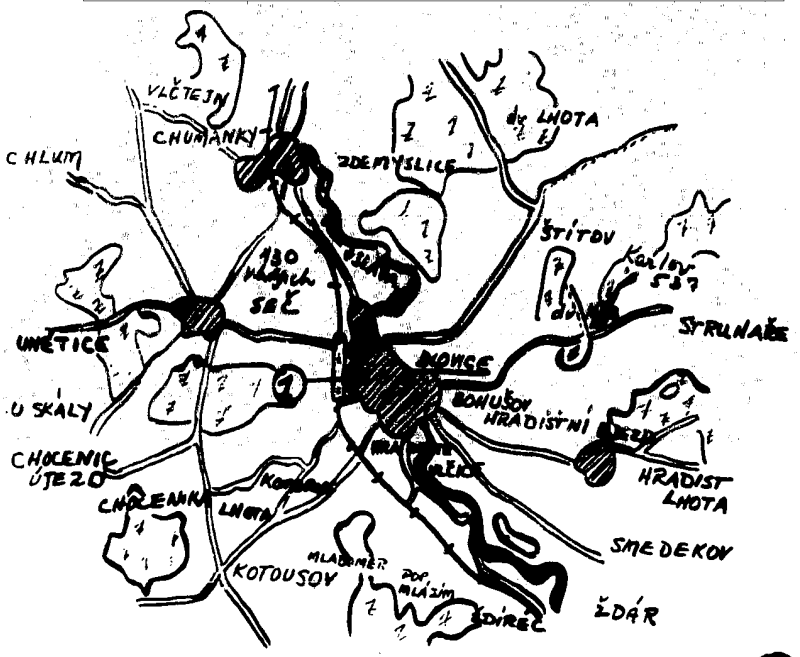

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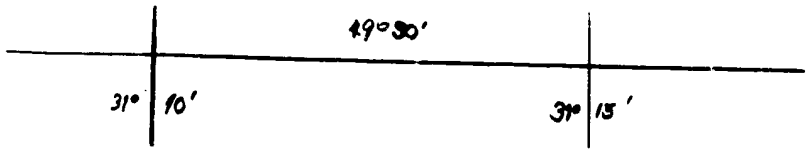

1. Lenin Works, National Enterprise.

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